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Featured Stories



Massachusetts Study Shows How PBM Spread Pricing Contributes to Rising Rx Costs

How much does the practice of spread pricing by pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) contribute to rising drug prices? According to a new Massachusetts Health Policy Commission [report](#) that examined the practice's impact on generic drugs purchased by Medicaid and private plans, the practice inflates PBM profits at the expense of health plans. Spread pricing allows PBMs to charge plans more for a prescription than it charges the dispensing pharmacy. After Massachusetts required transparency into these PBM practices, the commission found PBMs reaped substantial profits at the expense of consumers, in some cases it doubled the cost of drugs. Other states, including [Louisiana](#) and [Ohio](#), have taken action to prevent spread pricing and expect to save millions.



Kaiser Family Foundation's David Rousseau Joins NASHP's Corporate Board

David Rousseau, vice president and executive director of Health Policy Media and Technology at KFF (the Kaiser Family Foundation) and publisher of Kaiser Health News, has been elected to the Center for Health Policy Development's board of directors. The board is responsible for the legal and financial oversight of the organization and provides the corporate structure to support NASHP. Previously, Rousseau was director of the foundation's [statehealthfacts.org](#) project and was an associate director of the Kaiser Program on Medicaid and the Uninsured, focusing on Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program spending, financing and enrollment, as well as Medicaid service delivery issues, including managed care. He also serves on the board of Grantmakers In Health and chairs the board of Media Impact Funders.



#NASHPCONF19 Daylong Preconference Explores Sustaining Recovery Across the Life Span

As states grapple with the opioid crisis and treatment needs of people with substance use disorders, the next challenge policymakers face is supporting long-term recovery. This daylong session on Wednesday, Aug. 21, 2019, in Chicago, enables policymakers to learn about emerging policy issues and other states' experiences developing and implementing policies that promote long-term recovery. State leaders will offer best practices and innovations on topics including supportive housing and employment, long-term medical care, leveraging data to better understand the opioid crisis in rural communities, and tackling social isolation and re-entry after incarceration and treatment. Register for the conference [today](#).



NASHP Resource Page Helps States Address Health Through Housing

NASHP's updated [health and housing resource page](#) highlights innovative state efforts to fund housing and housing-related services, share data across sectors, and break down siloes to improve health through housing. It also features tools developed for the five states participating in NASHP's Health and Housing Institute, with support from the US Health Resources and Services Administration. Learn more about health and housing innovations taking place in Louisiana, Oregon, and Texas from state leaders at NASHP's 32nd annual health policy [conference](#), Aug. 21-23, 2019, in Chicago.



Webinars

Webinar: [Merging and Integration of Medicaid Data with Non-Medicare Data Sources](#)

3-4:30 p.m. (ET)
Wednesday, June 12, 2019

Jobs

Project Director – Chronic and Vulnerable Populations

NASHP seeks a project director for its Chronic and Vulnerable Populations team. [View the full job description.](#)

Policy Associate – Chronic and Vulnerable Populations

NASHP seeks a policy associate for its Chronic and Vulnerable Populations team. [View the full job description.](#)

Research Analyst – Chronic and Vulnerable Populations

NASHP seeks a research analyst for its Chronic and Vulnerable Populations team. [View the full job description.](#)

Research Analyst – Child and Family Health Policy

NASHP seeks a research analyst for its Child and Family Health Policy team. [View the full job description.](#)

Policy Associate – Population Health

NASHP seeks a policy associate for its Population Health team. [View the full job description.](#)

Resource of the Month



Michael Jung/Shutterstock.com

Vermont's ACO Model Rewards Providers for Early Childhood Screenings

This month, NASHP features its fact sheet, [Vermont Uses an Accountable Care Organization Model to Promote Developmental Screenings during Well Child Visits](#). The Medicaid Next Generation Model is designed to increase developmental screening of young children during well-child visits to identify and treat delays, improve care, and contain costs. View other resources at the [Healthy Child Development State Resource Center](#), supported by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. Submit new resources to ehiggins@nashp.org.

National Academy for State Health Policy

The National Academy for State Health Policy is a nonpartisan forum of policymakers throughout state governments, learning, leading and implementing innovative solutions to health policy challenges.

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